

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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In These Pages

Preparations for Centennial Nearing Completion	1
Honored Guests to Receive Degrees.	2
Praise Service in Music on Saturday.	2
Amagi Sanso Evangelism Conference -- Kyodan.	3
Typhoon Aftermath.	4
BRIEF NOTES:	

PREPARATIONS FOR CENTENNIAL NEARING COMPLETION

Recent announcements of the program for the centennial observation (November 1-8) have included the following.

After the national celebration in every church on Sunday morning, November 1, a church school students' program will open the week of the Centennial of Christian Mission in Japan. Scheduled at the Hibiya Park outdoor concert hall from 2:00-4:00 p.m., in case of rain it will be held at the auditorium of Joshi Gakuin (Junior and Senior High School for Women). Special music will be played by the Salvation Army Band, with the opening number by its trumpet section. The first half of the program will include a sermon, "Let Us Advance Together", by the Rev. Takihiro Yamakita, and the worship leader will be the Rev. Mitsuji Nakata.

The leader for the second half of the program is the Rev. Chozaburo Sotozaka. Greetings from a foreign representative as well as from a foreign church school student will be received. The nation-wide offerings for "Cement for the Philippines" will be given at this time; these have been donated throughout Japan during autumn as an ecumenical gesture in order to aid the building program of the church in the Philippines. Special music (musical saws) will be given by Futaba Gakuin.

On Tuesday, November 3, a special service will honor pastors spent who have 50 years and 40 years respectively in Christian service. Those who are to be honored for 50 years number 77, with the following groups represented: Kyodan (38 persons); Episcopal (17); Japanese Holiness Church (9); and the following groups are represented by 2

members each -- Evangelical Lutheran; Salvation Army; Union of Church of God Churches; Seventh Day Adventist. Groups with one member each are Japanese Baptist Union; Japanese Baptist League; Japanese Alliance; Free Methodist; and Shizuoka Independent Church.

The group of pastors spent who have 40 years or more in Christian service include members from the following: Kyodan (196 -- of these 21 are unordained members); Episcopal (21); Salvation Army (18); Evangelical Lutheran (7); Seventh Day Adventist (4); Japan Baptist League (3); Japan Holiness Church (2); Free Methodist (2); and one each from Japan Christian Reformed, Jesus Holy Spirit, Evangelistic Band, Christian League.

Among those to be honored, the oldest pastor is the Rev. Shinsui Kawai, 93 years of age, with the next oldest one the Rev. Kuniharu Oe (Kyodan, retired) 92 years of age. The longest span of service is represented by the Rev. Chujiro Maekawa (Union of Church of God Churches) now 87 years old, who has spent 67 years as a minister. Next in terms of service are the Revs. Zentaro Ono (Kyodan; retired), now 84 years old and Jusuku Fujimoto (Episcopal; active), 86 years old, with 64 years service each. Among those with over 60 years service are: The Revs. Toraji Makino (Kyodan), 63 years of service, J.M.T. Winther (Evangelical Lutheran), 61 years; Hide Kuniya (Seventh Day Adventist) 61 years; Rokutaro Fukushima (Episcopal) 60 years; Shinsui Kawai (Church of Heart of Christ) 60 years.

HONORED GUESTS TO RECEIVE DEGREES

During the Centennial Celebration, the Tokyo Union Theological Seminary will award honorary degrees to the following Christian leaders, who will be guests of the NCC as representatives from their denomination or group during the observation: WCC General Secretary Visser 't Hooft; former Methodist missionary Dr. Charles W. Iglehart; Methodist General Secretary T. T. Brumbaugh; former E.U.B. missionary Dr. Paul S. Mayer; United Presbyterian Commission on Ecumenical Mission General Secretary Dr. John Smith; and Gen. I. L. Bennett, former Chief of Chaplains, U. S. Army. At a different time, WCC General Secretary Visser 't Hooft will be given an honorary degree by St. Paul's University.

PRAISE SERVICE IN MUSIC ON SATURDAY

In commemoration of the Centennial, two special services of music will be held on Saturday, November 7. The first, a Christian music festival, will be held at the Bunkyo Public Hall, beginning at 1 o'clock. A mass chorus will be composed of many church choirs (Tamagawa Heian, Reinanzaka, Misakicho, Logos, Yumicho Hongo and Ikebukuro West Churches), music clubs (Southwest Area Music Club Tokyo Student "Y" Choir), and university glee clubs and choirs (ICU, Meiji Gakuin University, Tamagawa School, Tokyo Women's University, Tokyo University Music Study Group and Ferris Junior College).

The second service will be a presentation of "The Messiah" at Sankei Hall. One program for students, with tickets to be sold in blocks for groups or clubs, will begin at 3:00 p.m. and the second will begin at 7:00 p.m. with regular admission prices. The chorus, composed of college and church music groups (Aoyama Gakuin, Ferris, Tokyo Women's College, Tokyo Choral Society, YMCA Glee Club, Tokiwadai Church, Ginza

Church, Keisen Jo Gakuin, Misakisho Church, and Japan Lutheran Seminary) will be under the direction of the noted musician, Koten Okuda, with well-known soloists and music furnished by the Japan Chamber Music Orchestra.

AMAGI SANSO EVANGELISM CONFERENCE -- Kyodan

In the annual Kyodan evangelism conference at Amagi Sanso, Oct. 6-8, the disastrous effects of the typhoon prevented attendance of some and made others conscious of the immediate needs of fellow Christians and others in the Nagoya area. The Rev. Keikichi Shirai, moderator of the United Church, was unable to be present to deliver the opening sermon, therefore the Rev. Kikaku Shimamura, present head of General Evangelism, preached and stirred the imagination of the attendants with his sermon on Jesus' words "I know my sheep", urging greater pastoral care.

In keeping with its culinary reputation, Amagi Sanso served a finely prepared sukiyaki supper on the first evening, restoring the vigor to bodies tired from long train rides and the final bus ride over roads still in bad repair from the typhoon which hit the area last year.

The evening discussion was focused on "Obstacles to the Penetration of the Gospel into the Masses" by two speakers -- Dr. Kishio Enamoto and the Rev. William Elder. Dr. Enamoto, son of a pastor, became a medical doctor and served in the Kyoto area. Through his interest in proper care for prostitutes, he was awakened to many social needs and joining the Sohyo labor union, finally becoming one of the full-time officials of the union. Noting that of six million union members in Japan, half belong to Sohyo, Dr. Enamoto noted that two-thirds of these are white collar workers. Among the smaller companies (with 500 or fewer employees), only 4% of the laborers are organized and it is the problem of thier needs which at present concerns Sohyo most. Peace within the union, with its conflicting groups, is always difficult to maintain. Also, the future spread of automation in factories with large-scale layoffs demands greater planning for welfare of the laborers. In pointing to more specific problems of the church, he noted that church members tend to come from the white collar group. The past relationship between the Christian movement and the U.S. armed forces tends to discredit evangelistic efforts, giving them the color of a foreign nationalistic movement. Lack of organization among the smaller industries means great poverty, inadequate recreation, and vulgar level of life. Although Dr. Enamoto's presentation was largely on social background, it gave a realistic understanding of the milieu in which the gospel must be preached.

Thus, the following speech by the Rev. William Elder was effectively directed to the Japanese scene. Finding many hindering factors within the church (Failure to see people as individuals, loneliness and seeming inadequacy of small churches) churches and members become self-centered and thus turn away from their role of servant in society. A vision by the church of large and effective growth through God's power is necessary for the future.

The Rev. Sigeharu Seya, speaking on "Preaching the Gospel in the Second Century and the Formation of the Church", urged that the Church be permitted to be the Church in Japan, with the Japanese Church becom-

ing a model to the ecumenical church as it devotes itself fully to all people. Summing up the present weaknesses of the Kyodan, he pointed to (1) inadequate concern for the confession of faith; (2) poorly planned over-all evangelism; (3) economic weakness of the church and restriction of the pastor who must live on a minimum wage; (4) outlying areas are not adequately visited by central leaders so more authority and planning on local levels must be recognized; (5) whether seminaries are training leaders adequately for direct evangelism is a question -- they are too "scholarly" and dependent upon current theological trends of thought; (6) the problem of how foreign aid is to be received and how used. As might be expected, this frank discussion of the church's problems evoked one of the most lively discussions.

The Rev. Alden Matthews, in a companion speech, urged that the church structure must be kept secondary, with the church rather being "Christ-centered". The point of orientation then would be witness to the saving work of God in Christ and not as church activity. Only in this way, with a clear view of suffering individuals, can the church fulfill its task.

Discussion groups attacked individual areas and held a united discussion afterwards. Attendants at the meeting were central evangelistic workers of the United Church and the sub-division (kyoku) heads, all evangelistic missionaries and some educational missionaries related to the United Church, and executives and directors.

TYPHOON AFTERMATH

Nearly one month since the typhoon "Vera" hit Japan has passed, but cities are still flooded, schools closed, food and clothing are inadequate. As of October 14, official figures of casualties for the Ise Bay Typhoon were listed as: 4,464 killed, 30,114 injured, 849 missing, 1,571,524 persons affected by the storm. In the face of some criticism of government retarded action, Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi has stated that the Cabinet will consider a plan for "permanent typhoon and flood rehabilitation measures."

The gratifying response from individuals and groups or companies all over the world has made some restitution of lost goods possible. Blankets, clothing, and food have been distributed as widely as possible but the number of persons affected has meant great difficulty in distribution. Repair materials and workers from all over Japan have been sent to the Nagoya area to restore public and private buildings. Damage to the area may be seen more clearly by the picture from particular places or of specific industries:

Ceramics industry: Fortunately the factories were outside the major disaster (flooded) area and most goods can be washed and repacked. Textile mills: These suffered most severely -- three of the country's largest mills were badly damaged through soaked and ruined goods or raw material as well as flooded factories and badly rusted machinery. Shipping: More than 80 vessels (18 were ocean-going) were "sunk, grounded, or destroyed" though six have been re-floated. Among those still to be repaired and re-floated are a 7000-ton English ship and a 12,000 ton Dutch one, each of which will take several months. Flooded area: Blaming the tide-control embankments for the flood, Prof. Katsumasa Yano of Kyoto University said they had not been properly constructed when they were built following the severe typhoon of 1953. People of Kuwana County, south of Nagoya, are still quartered in tents on

the hills, gathering drift wood to use for heating. While some people have been able to live in the second floor of their homes in Kuwana city, more than 8,000 are scattered among the 12 schools and other public buildings. Many of the people are beginning to show signs of malnutrition, according to a newspaper reporter who visited the area. The necessary work to prevent continued flooding by the sea includes repair on 24 sections of one river dike near Yatomi-cho. Among Christian property severely affected was the Kinjo Gakuin, which has reported damage of more than 20 million yen (about \$55,000). Because of the cost of repairs, the school has had to abandon the new memorial construction program which was being undertaken.

Aid given: Typical of the aid given was that of work team gathered by the Osaka-Kobe YMCA. Eight persons, under the leadership of Mr. Miyazaki of the Youth Department, Osaka YMCA, took food and boats by truck to aid the stricken persons. Students: Newspaper reports listed aid by more than 100,000 students having been given in the typhoon area. Work by 1,000 Mie University students made it possible to reopen the elementary and middle schools. In Aichi Prefecture, storm damage was repaired by 77,000 students from 95 high schools and 7,600 from four colleges, including Kanto, Yokohama, Doshisha, Kyoto, and Gifu universities.

BRIEF NOTES:

Fukuoka: The Baptist League held its 70th anniversary celebration. Yokohama: October 24-27 will be a series of meetings at Kaigan Church, the first Protestant Japanese church, as it celebrates its 88th anniversary. The 100th anniversary of the arrival of Dr. James C. Hepburn in Japan was noted this month. Hepburn, originator of the Romanized spelling of the Japanese language, produced the first English-Japanese dictionary and one of the early translations of the Bible into Japanese.

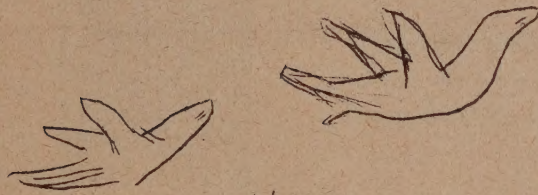
Under the editorship of Dr. Raymond Jennings (author of "Jesus, Japan and Kanzo Uchimura" and professor at Kanto Gakuin) the Japan Christian Quarterly has produced three issues which seem marked already as collectors' items. Celebrating the Quarterly's 25th anniversary and in conjunction with the Protestant Centennial, the first mission-eries "Hepburn, Ballagh, Verbeck, Samuel Brown and Nathan Brown". The work there was characterized by "tendency toward union work, social concern, Reformed theology, organizational emphasis, educational work". The early Japanese leaders were "Uemura, Ibuka, Okuno, Inagaki, the Hoshinos, Honda, Oshikawa, Kumazawa and others". The second volume (April) presented "The Yamamoto Band" which was centered in Kumamoto and was first influenced by Capt. L. L. Janes. With its "ethical emphasis, liberal theology, and congregationalism" it produced the varied leadership of "Ebina, Shimomura, Miyasawa, Yokoi, Ukita, Kanamori, Kozaki" and was indebted to the work and influence of Jo Niijima (Doshisha University founder). The third volume (July) presented "The Sapporo Band", the students who were influenced by Dr. W. S. Clark and whose group included "Uchimura, Nitobe, Miyabe, Sato, Ito, Oshima, Kuroiwa and others". This group was known for its "strong moral emphasis -- Puritanism, orthodoxy, concern with cultural relationships, indigenous Christianity and non-Churchism (Mukyokai)". The fourth volume, yet to appear, will deal with the future, in the editor's words, "the new 'band' that is taking shape today -- ... who have caught the vision of making the Japanese church a missionary Church...."

(quotations from volume one, JCCQ, pp 9, 3)

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